

**REMARKS**

An amendment to the specification is made to identify the PCT International Application and to claim the benefit of the foreign priority documents.

Claims 1-11 are currently pending. The claims have been amended in order to conform them to U.S. practice. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

The examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above preliminary amendment prior to examination of the application. If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 30, 2004

By: 

Ernest F. Chapman  
Reg. No. 25,961

EFC/FPD/sci

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com